

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /083 W

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R 191355Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5367

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0862

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, SF

SUBJ: STUDENT VIOLENCE CLOSES FORT HARE UNIVERSITY

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE (FOR XHOSA AFRICANS) AT ALICE IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE WAS CLOSED JULY 18 FOLLOWING STUDENT VIOLENCE THAT RESULTED IN SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE AND UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS AT ARSON.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, TROUBLE STARTED AFTER FORT HARE STUDENT COUNCIL HEAD RECEIVED PERMISSION TO HOLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR SOWETO ON JULY 18. AT THAT POINT NOTICES APPEARED ON CAMPUS URGING STUDENTS NOT TO REMAIN PASSIVE AND NOT TO BECOME "INTELLECTUAL SELL-OUTS" OR "PAR OF THE WHITE MAN'S MACHINE." GROUP OF ABOUT 150 STUDENTS THEREUPON STARTED BREAKING WINDOWS AND STONING AUTOMOBILES. THEY WERE LATER DETAINED BY POLICE WHO APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REINFORCED IN ANTICIPATION OF TROUBLE. ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS ALL BUT FIVE DETAINED STUDENTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

3. COMMENT: FORT HARE HAS HAD LONG HISTORY OF STUDENT UNREST. PRESENT OUTBREAK PROBABLY LEAD BY THOSE STUDENTS DISSATISFIED WITH UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION WHO ARE SEEKING

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TO CAPITALIZE ON BROADER BLACK STUDENT UNREST TO DEMONSTRATE

THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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